

Debate with David Belin Vanderbalt 11/19/75 HW 11/21/75

Because this memo will cover a number of points it will probably be disorganized, contributed to by the condition in which I returned.

If these things were scored on debating points there would be no question and Belin would make no more public appearances. Certainly none in debate format. There was a tentative agreement for another at NYState at Binghamton. I'll be pushing for that. The college radio station was to have taped this one so I didn't, although I had a recorder with me.

The morning I left I could not lace my left shoe. It appeared to get no worse during the day but that night, when I removed it, taking it off was difficult and the foot itself was greatly swollen. Yesterday morning it was so swollen I could not get the shoe on. Fortunately I had taken a pair of soft moccasins. Despite the rain I wore them. I went to see Jimmy Ray in them, from there went to the airport and there required a wheelchair, as I did at National. Everyone beginning with Floyd was wonderful. Without Floyd I'd have had difficulty getting home at all. But the hostesses were very nice, I cut the visit with Ray short and was able to get an earlier plane not sold out. Before the Braniff Nashville people allowed anyone on the plane they went onto it, spoke to the crew and arranged the back rear set for Floyd and me, with the seats in front empty so they could fold them down and I could keep my legs raised. They even entered me through the rear ramp of the 727 so I'd not have the length of the plane to walk. At May National they had a wheelchair waiting at the boom of the plane's ramp. Only problem turns out to be a plus more than a minus. We had luggage and I had some of it on my lap. While Floyd was getting his van a piece fell off and, naturally, hit the most swollen part of the left instep. The bleeding was slight and there was no clotting problem. While Floyd was getting the van I phoned the doctor and JL, who apparently thought I was still in Nashville or Lil misunderstood him. I'd tried to phone the doctor from Nashville and got no answer. In DC I learned it was because the clinic had to be emptied over a bomb scare. I saw the doctor, he says it is because I've been on the foot too much (he has told me to use it to the point of strong pain), he increased the ibuprofen from thrice weekly to daily and told me to walk around some but keep the foot elevated. Making this uncomfortable. When I asked me my immediate plans I told him I'd decided to cancel an appearance on the steps of the Capitol Saturday but without his objection would go ahead with once scheduled for Monday night, after I see him Monday afternoon, if necessary with a wheelchair for the longer walks. He agreed.